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HEUSINGER PLEA FOR EICHMANN PALS

Just ten years ago, two nazi generals who are today the top commanders of the new West German Wehrmacht put on a midnight blackmail act in an attempt to save the lives of the worst SS killers, who had been sentenced to death by an American military court for mass murder.

The two nazi generals were General Adolf Heusinger, Inspector General of the Bundeswehr, and Chairman-Elect of the NATO Military Committee, and General Hans Speidel, today commander of NATO Ground Forces, Central Europe.

The men whom they wished to save from execution included SS General Otto Ohlendorf, head of "Special Extermination Squad D" on the Eastern Front, which murdered at least 90,000 people, mainly Jews; SS General Oswald Pohl, boss of all concentration camps, and the man who ordered the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto; SS Colonel Paul Blobel, extermination squad commander with 60,000 murders to his credit; sixteen other SS officers and men with mass murder records, and three German soldiers who had murdered allied airman who landed by parachute. All these men with the exception of the three last ones had formed part of the Eichmann team for the "final solution of the Jewish problem".

All of them had been sentenced to death by American Military Courts, and were awaiting execution when General Speidel and General Heusinger made their bid to save their lives. On January 30th 1951, the two generals made a secret approach to a top-ranking American diplomat in Bonn, and threatened that if these SS criminals were executed, West Germany would refuse to raise an army.

The story of the Speidel-Heusinger blackmail bid is told by American diplomat Charles Thayer in his book "The Unquiet Germans", published in London by Michael Joseph. In 1951 Mr Thayer, a US career diplomat, was serving on the staff of the American High Commission in Bonn. In January 1951, the Americans were urging the Adenauer Government to raise a new Wehrmacht, as an "armed ally against the east". The old military caste in West Germany saw the opportunity to strike a hard bargain. Let Mr Thayer take the story up from there:

"The job of convincing the rest of the Germans that under proper auspices soldiering could be an honourable profession had hardly begun. Allied occupation prisons still held scores of soldiers sentenced in the War Crimes Trials. Some, after their appeals had dragged on for years, were still awaiting execution. John McCloy as (U.S.) High Commissioner was the court of last appeal. In an effort to settle the nasty problem once and for all he undertook to review all the outstanding cases under American jurisdiction . . . As the deadline for the final decision approached, newspaper editors raised the tension still higher with editorials denouncing the War Crimes Trials.

"The night before McCloy's decisions were to be published a young German official from the Defence

Nazi To Top Nato

General Adolf Heusinger, former chief of operations of the nazi Wehrmacht, was appointed Chairman of the NATO Military Committee on December 13th. The Military Committee, which has its permanent seat in Washington, is the top military body of the whole complicated NATO structure.

General Heusinger, who is 63, will take up his new post on April 1st. Hitherto Heusinger was Inspector General of the West German Wehrmacht. He is a professional officer, promoted by Hitler to the post of Chief of Operations in 1940. In this capacity he planned all the nazi invasions of other countries.

Heusinger was sitting next to Hitler at the General Staff table when the bomb intended to kill Hitler exploded on July 20th 1944. Heusinger was arrested by the Gestapo, but released two months later "without a stain on his character". He was the only top-ranking officer arrested after the failure of the bomb plot who was not executed, and there is strong circumstantial evidence that he purchased his life by telling the Gestapo all he knew about the military plotters.

Immediately upon his release from an American prison camp in 1948, Heusinger joined the American-financed espionage service of General Gerhard Gehlen, former nazi spy chief. In January 1951 he went to work for the embryonic West German War Ministry, in which capacity he made the plea for the lives of top SS criminals, reported on this page.

In his autobiography "Befehl im Widerstreit", published in West Germany in 1950 he stated: "Our (nazi) soldiers have done magnificent deeds. I hope that will be recognised at a later date, they have fought to the last, and kept their honour unsullied".

(For more dope on nazis in NATO, turn the page.)

West German Influence

"General Heusinger's new post can strengthen (West) German influence on some NATO decisions."

"Deutsche Zeitung", West Germany, December 15th 1960

Office phoned and said he must see me urgently. He arrived at my home tense and distraught. If, as they feared, McCloy upheld the death sentences, it would be impossible to persuade any German ever again to bear arms for any cause...

"Then our German friend went to the telephone. Ten minutes later a large car drew up at the house and two muffled figures got out. Not till they'd removed their heavy winter coats did I recognise Heusinger and Speidel. Gloomily they confirmed what our friend had already told us: If the prisoners at Landsberg were hanged, Germany as an armed ally against the East was an illusion.

"We pointed out that some of the condemned men had been convicted of crimes for which any German court would hang them out of hand. If crime went unpunished, what assurance was there against a resurgence of their barbaric behaviour in another conflict? Furthermore, if McCloy in a fit of compassion were to pardon everyone, the reaction in America might well be more serious than the dire consequences our visitors were predicting in Germany.

"A larger issue, they retorted, was at stake. We had invited Germany to work her passage back into the ranks of civilised nations... To persuade the people to acknowledge and repent, we must 'temper justice with mercy'.

"...It was well past midnight when the session ended. By then my living-room was strewn with Bibles, prayer books, and even the works of Milton and Shakespeare, from which our friends had sought quotations to bolster their arguments. Reluctantly (we) agreed to convey their message to McCloy before the final judgement was handed down...

"Next morning... McCloy's office released the verdict. Five of the fifteen Landsberg prisoners condemned to death were to be hanged. All other death sentences and many prison terms were commuted. My friend in the Defence Office put in a final call to me. 'Your visitors of last night', he said, mentioning no names, 'asked me to tell you they think it's the best solution we could have hoped for under the circumstances'."

Mr Thayer's memory played him false on the number of persons involved. The records show that in fact seven top SS men were executed, and fifteen were reprieved and have long been released from jail. It is impossible to assess what part the Speidel-Heusinger intervention played in saving the lives of these fifteen nazi murderers, and letting them loose on humanity once again.

It is important to remember that if Adolf Eichmann had not succeeded in eluding the Americans in 1945, he would also have been on the execution list; and Speidel and Heusinger would have made a plea to "temper justice with mercy" in his case too. Today Speidel has under his command most of the British troops in West Germany; Heusinger will soon take up his key post in the NATO Command in Washington.

HITLER'S PRAETORIANS

The Men Who Run West Germany's War Machine

The number of West German officers serving in high NATO positions goes up from year to year. By 1959 a total of 210 West German officers, all of them former officers of Hitler's Wehrmacht, were stationed abroad in important integrated posts with NATO or its member nations. 13 of these officers are generals;

Most prominent is **General Hans Speidel**, who commands all NATO land forces in Central Europe. He was mixed up in countless nazi plots and conspiracies, commanded troops in the Soviet Union where he was responsible for destruction and pillage and in France, where he ordered the execution and deportation of countless Jews, resistance fighters and hostages.

Lieutenant General Friedrich Foertsch also has a top post in NATO — he is Deputy Chief of Staff for Planning and Politics in the Central European Command at Fontainebleau, France.

He was first promoted to the Lieutenant General rank by Hitler, who also awarded him the "Knight's Cross". As Chief of Staff of the 18th Army in the Soviet Union, he was responsible for the use of Russian civilians and prisoners at forced labour, for the requisition of thousands of tons of food from starving villages, and for sending trainload after trainload of slave labourers to Germany. He commanded the troops which destroyed the ancient cities of Pskov, Novgorod, and cultural shrines at Pushkino and other towns. Sentenced by the Soviet Union to 25 years imprisonment as a war criminal, he was released in 1955 and soon had a major post in the new West German Bundeswehr.

The most important section of NATO, the Central European command, is divided into two main army groups, the central group and the northern group, both based in West Germany. Three corps of West German troops form the main base of these army groups. This is how they are commanded:

I Corps Commanders

The I Corps, in the northern group with headquarters at Muenster, is commanded by **Lieutenant General Heinrich Trettner.** Trettner is an old parachute troop officer — he was top general staff officer of the paratroops which opened the invasion of Belgium and the Netherlands in 1940, and as General Staff chief of the 11th Air Corps he planned out the paratroop attack on Crete during the war. Hitler promoted him to the rank of Major General and awarded him the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves.

General Trettner's I Corps includes the following divisions:

The 3rd Panzer Division is commanded by **Major General Christian Mueller,** once Chief of Staff of the 4th Panzer Army during its battles in the Soviet Union and other countries.

The 6th Panzer Grenadier Division is headed by **Major General Peter von der Groeben,** who started the war as a general staff officer during the attack on Poland and ended it, a major general with the "German Cross in Gold" decoration, commanding the 3rd Cavalry Division.

Brigadier General Burkhart Mueller-Hillebrand commands the 1st Panzer Grenadier Division stationed in Hanover. He was also a Major General during the war. Beside heading the General Staffs of panzer armies and corps, he also was leader of the organisational department of the whole army General Staff.

II Corps Commanders

The II Corps, with headquarters in Ulm, Bavaria, is the southernmost

West German army group, and faces Czechoslovakia and parts of the GDR. It is commanded by **Lieutenant General Max Pemsel.**

Pemsel is a mountain troop specialist. He led his troops against the people of France, Italy, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union and other countries. Here is an order signed by him on October 19th 1941 in Yugoslavia:

"Sudden actions in all our military centres in Serbia are to be organised immediately with the aim of arresting all communists, male inhabitants suspected of being communists, all Jews, and a certain number of nationalist and democratic inhabitants as hostages. These hostages and the population are to be told that if German soldiers or German citizens are attacked the hostages will be shot..."

Several hours later, Pemsel sent another order to the troops in Serbia. "...In carrying out this order, 2200 of the arrested Serbs are to be shot in retaliation for 10 killed and 24 wounded German soldiers... The Belgrade Guard Regiment will execute 1600 of them."

The next day, the Belgrade Guard Regiment shot all inhabitants of the town of Kragujevac which it could capture — men, women and children.

Max Pemsel was awarded the "Knight's Cross" and appointed Lieutenant General by Hitler.

His present Corps is composed of four divisions.

Brigadier General Hans Kroh commands the 1st Airborne Division. He commanded paratroopers in many battles in different parts of Europe. At the end of the war he had reached the rank of Major General and had received the awards of "Knight's Cross" plus the "Oak Leaves" and "Swords".

The 1st Mountain Troop Division, stationed in Garmisch, was commanded until recently by **Brigadier General Johann Buchner,** who had commanded battalions of mountain troops in the attacks on Norway, the Caucasus, the Kuban and the Ukraine, where he was an expert in "scorched earth" tactics. Information is not yet available on his new replacement.

Major-General Johann-Adolf von Kielmannsegg commands the 10th Panzer Grenadier Division. Kielmannsegg wrote a book about his experiences in World War II, called "Tanks Between Warsaw and the Atlantic" and published in 1941. Here are some quotations from his book:

"We held our breaths when we heard the Fuehrer's last offer to Poland... and we would not have been German soldiers if we had not hoped that Poland would not accept..."

"...A wonderful picture was presented to our eyes! Past burning Avancon, still under the fire of the German artillery, the tanks moved ahead, mowing down all resistance..."

"We have fulfilled the duty assigned us by history, Germany and the Fuehrer: we report we are ready to fulfil our only remaining duty — the destruction of England!"

Lieutenant General Fritz Uebelhack commands the 4th Panzer Grenadier Division. He took part in the invasions of Poland, France and the Soviet Union, headed the General Staff of a mountain troop corps in Finland and had a leading position in the general staff responsible for destroying the resistance movement in Norway.

III Corps Commanders

The III Corps, with headquarters in Koblenz, is commanded by **Major General Heinrich Gaedcke.** He attained the same rank under Hitler thanks to his work as head of the General Staff of the 6th Army. He also taught tactics to young officers at the nazi war academy.

Under his command are three divisions.

The 2nd Panzer Grenadier Division is commanded by **Brigadier General Ottomar Hansen.** He was Adjutant of the head of the Wehrmacht High Command during the invasion of Poland, commander of a battalion which invaded France in 1940 and commander of a panzer grenadier regiment during the attack on the Soviet Union. He also held important functions in the personnel section of the top army headquarters. Hitler awarded him the "German Cross in Gold" and promoted him to Major General.

The 5th Panzer Division is headed by **Brigadier General Guenther Pape,** a commander of motorcycle troops during the invasions of Poland and the Soviet Union. He received the "Knight's Cross" and later the "Oak Leaves" distinction.

Brigadier General Willi Mantey commands the 7th Panzer Grenadier Division. A colonel during the war, he was on the general staff of a number of divisions, corps and armies fighting against the Soviet Union.

Luftwaffe Commanders

The same general picture may also be found in the Luftwaffe (Air Force). The Northern Luftwaffe Group is commanded by **Lieutenant General Martin Harlingshausen.** He was one of the main planners of the air attacks on Britain in 1940. For this he was awarded the "Oak Leaves", an addition to the "Knight's Cross" he had received for his part in air raids on France. Several years earlier he had been a member of Hitler's "Condor Legion" which had bombed civilians in Spain during the Civil War. Later in World War Two he headed the Atlantic air command, led the Luftwaffe actions in Tunisia and was given responsibility for air torpedo attacks against United Nations shipping.

The Southern Luftwaffe Group has as its commander **Lieutenant General Joachim-Friedrich Huth.** He took part in the air attacks on Poland and France, was Commodore of the "Horst Wessel" Squadron, was promoted to Lieutenant General and received the Knight's Cross.

Navy Commanders

The story is the same in the Navy. Top commander is **Rear Admiral Rolf Johannesson,** who commanded the destroyer "Z 15" in attacks on Poland and Norway. In 1941 he also served as 1st Admiralty Staff officer in the Aegean. He commanded a destroyer flotilla off the north coast of Norway in 1943 and 1944, and also received the "Knight's Cross".

According to Johannesson, the West German navy is already in a position "to blockade the most important Soviet ports on the Baltic with mines in a single night."

There are two West German NATO fleets. The Baltic Sea Fleet is commanded by **Flotilla Admiral Heinrich Gerlach.** He was actively engaged in planning and carrying out the war-time attacks on Poland, Denmark, Norway and France — partly as commander of the destroyer "Z 35". He owed this latter command to his major part in the battle of Narvik. Just before the end of the war he became Chief of Staff to the Navy Commander in Chief Doenitz.

The North Sea Fleet is commanded by **Flotilla Admiral Hubert Baron von Wangenheim,** another destroyer commander who took part in the nazi conquest of Norway. He later headed a whole destroyer flotilla.

All these officers, commanders of West German army, airforce and naval units, are part of the NATO structure, whose stated goal is the defence of western freedom and justice.

Britain Ejects GDR Newsman

Readers of "Neues Deutschland", biggest GDR daily newspaper, will in future have to do without first-hand reports on the British scene from the newspaper's London correspondent.

The British authorities forced Dr Franz Krahl, the correspondent in question, to leave the country on December 15th, although they had no complaints to make about his professional or personal conduct.

The background to this unprecedented peace-time expulsion of a journalist from Britain was sketched by Conservative M. P. Burnaby Drayson, in a letter published by "The Times" on December 7th.

The letter stated:

"Sir, — May I draw your attention to a matter which I consider to be a serious interference with and infringement of the free functioning of a foreign press representative accredited to this country? I refer to the London correspondent of the east German paper "Neues Deutschland", who has been resident in London for nearly a year, and who has performed his reporting duties in an exemplary manner. Dr Franz Krahl's stay in London is governed by the travel documents issued in lieu of passports by the Allied Travel Office in Berlin. His papers expire on December 15th, 1960, and according to the Foreign Office and the Home Office, he will have to leave on that date.

"This strange move is explained as being a reprisal for the restrictions imposed by the east German Government on free travel in Berlin itself, restrictions which I am told have affected only 50 west Germans out of over 110,000 wishing to visit east Berlin in recent weeks, and imposed at a time when the British press almost unanimously questioned the wisdom of the west Germans holding certain rallies in west Berlin when speeches not altogether calculated to reduce the tension in that city were made.

"I understand that the National Union of Journalists and the Foreign Press Association have both written in strong terms to the departments concerned, pleading for Dr Krahl to be allowed to stay. I write to you, Sir, because I feel it is the height of absurdity for a blameless newspaper correspondent to be ordered to leave London as a far-removed by-product of an incident in Berlin.

"Dr Krahl first came to this country in the 1930s to take refuge from Nazi oppression. He has established a home in London with his wife and family — now it appears that he is to be the victim of pressure brought by Bonn on the British Government, particularly at a time when it is reported that trade negotiations between east and west Germany have been resumed, and it may be fairly safely concluded that before very long the normal state of affairs between the two German states will be restored.

"The virtual expulsion of a bona fide correspondent for reasons quite unconnected with his journalistic record would appear to be quite unprecedented in this country which values so highly freedom of speech and the press. I hope that before many days pass wiser and more enlightened counsels will prevail."

* * *

Dr Krahl, who spent three years in nazi concentration camps and was beaten severely by the Gestapo before his escape to Britain, did everything in his power to help Britain and its allies win World War II. All his relatives and those of his wife were killed by the nazis. After Hitler's defeat, he returned to help build up a democratic Germany.

Trade Up

A big new trade agreement between Yugoslavia and the GDR, signed on December 13th in East Berlin, provides for exchanges worth 2.5 thousand million marks (over £200 million) during the years 1961 to 1965. The agreement also detailed plans for closer technical and scientific co-operation.

The GDR will export chiefly artificial fertilisers, chemicals and drugs, machinery and electrical products, office machines and a variety of consumer goods.

In exchange, Yugoslavia will send to the GDR rolled steel, freight cars, cable, certain types of machinery, wood, shoes, fish and wine. The agreement represents a substantial increase over previous agreements.

Another agreement by GDR trade officials was also signed in early December with the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (ICE). It foresaw an increased trade volume between the two countries for 1961. Among other items, Italy will supply hides, fruits, tobacco and synthetic fibres in exchange for machinery, precision instruments, textiles, books and musical instruments.

GDR Name for Island

A newly-discovered island in the Antarctic has been named Hans Christian Popp Island after a scientist from the German Democratic Republic who lost his life last August during a fire at the Soviet exploration base Mirny. The island, found by Soviet explorers, is located near King George V Land, at 68°32′ South and 151°46′ East.

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Ex-Nazis' Hunting Ground Seen in Schleswig-Holstein

By Gaston Coblentz

The small north German state of Schleswig-Holstein is acquiring the reputation of being a happy hunting ground for former Nazis.

There is enough evidence on hand to this effect for it to be assuming the proportions of a national scandal. Officials of Chancellor Adenauer's government in Bonn concede that it is an unsavory situation. Ironically, it is Dr Adenauer's party which controls the local administration in Schleswig-Holstein.

The picture is not that of an open neo-Nazi organization aggressively seeking power in the state, as was the situation in Lower Saxony earlier in the post-war era. Instead, it is the picture of a society whose fabric is permeated by covert and tenacious pro-Nazi favoritism and protection.

Involved, according to an accumulation of published data, are state officials, possibly part of the judiciary and law-enforcement agencies, and part of the local population which votes for Dr Adenauer's democracy at the national elections every four years, but shows a high degree of tolerance to convicted Nazi war criminals during the intervals.

Also indirectly affected is the head of the state government, Kai-Uwe von Hassel, who, at 47, ranks as one of the prominent younger figures in Dr Adenauer's Christian Democratic party and has occasionally been mentioned as a possible successor to the Chancellor. He is charged with not doing enough about what one German newspaper called the "Nazi quagmire" in Kiel, the state capital.

Events which are responsible for Schleswig-Holstein's present repute included the following:

1 — Protection of former Nazis in the shape of large pension payments.

The latest case has been that of Franz Schlegelberger, State Secretary for Justice in the Hitler regime, who furnished legal indorsement for the mass annihilation of medical patients and other victims under the Nazi race-purification scheme. He was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, but was released by the American authorities from Landsberg prison, in Bavaria, after serving four years.

After settling again with his family at Flensburg in Schleswig-Holstein, he began drawing a monthly pension of $700 a month for his former high-ranking government service. He then wrote a legal work which drew hostile press attention, and his pension was curtailed.

The climax to the case occurred when a Kiel court ruled that he had not been conscious of doing anything wrong in his actions during the Hitler era, and that his full pension should be restored. To underline its view, the court further decreed that the payments should be made retroactive to include the recent period during which he was deprived of them.

2 — Suppression of criticism of former Nazis.

Former SS (Elite Guard) Gen Heinz Reinefarth is currently a Deputy in the Schleswig-Holstein State Parliament. Previous attempts were made to have him convicted on charges of alleged war crimes during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Some quarters charge that the case was inadequately prosecuted before a Schleswig-Holstein court.

Upon his entry into the state Parliament two years ago, a few local officials spoke out against the general's election as a blow to German democracy. However, according to the "Frankfurter Rundschau", the Kiel government issued a circular warning that freedom of speech under the constitution did not give state employees the right to express whatever opinion they chose. One offending official is said to have been specifically forbidden to voice further criticism in the Reinefarth case.

3 — Nazi teachers at schools and universities.

Lothar Stielau, an official of the neo-Nazi German Reich Party, continues to teach secondary school pupils in Schleswig-Holstein despite legal charges brought against him two years ago for mocking "The Diary of Anne Frank."

4 — Race-purifiers in the Schleswig-Holstein medical field.

The case of Dr Werner Heyde and Dr Hertha Oberheuser have previously been reported at some length. The former was one of the key physicians in Hitler's program for killing off the physically and mentally unfit and other unwanted persons. Since his arrest outside the state a year ago, a growing number of Schleswig-Holstein officials have been implicated in the extensive conspiracy of silence that enabled him to prosper in their midst for years under the alias of Dr Fritz Sawade.

Dr Oberheuser, sentenced at Nuremberg to 20 years for conducting grim medical experiments on Polish girls at the Ravensbruck concentration camp, was finally debarred from her successful recent practice as a children's doctor at Stocksee, near Kiel.

There is also the case of Prof Werner Catel, another race-purifier under the Hitler regime. Among those whom he is admitted to have selected for death were young children. Acquitted by a Hamburg court on grounds that he believed in the legality of his actions during the Nazi era, he was selected to serve at Kiel University as a professor for children's diseases.

Dr Catel left the university post this fall after the Attorney General of Hamburg started new proceedings against him. However, Edo Osterloh, head of the cultural department of the Schleswig-Holstein administration, defended Prof Catel earlier this year with a statement that Schleswig-Holstein parents could "entrust their children to his care without the slightest concern."

("New York Herald Tribune", European Edition, December 12th 1960)

GERMAN REPORT adds:

1. The Schlegelberger case has not yet ended, since public pressure has forced the Schleswig-Holstein Provincial Government to appeal against the pension award. Schlegelberger's son, Dr Hartwig Schlegelberger, is scheduled to become Provincial Finance Minister in January 1961,

and will be in charge of the case against his father.

2. SS General Reinefarth was not implicated in war crimes during the Warsaw Ghetto rising in April 1943, but in the general Warsaw rising of August 1944.

3. For further comments on the case of Frau Doktor Oberheuser, see "Berlin Notebook" on the back page of this issue.

Reeds for Reading

A huge new floating industry has been constructed in Roumania on the reed islands of the Danube delta with the cooperation of Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. The first cellulose, made from the thickly growing water plants, was produced in early December, and the cooperative venture is aiming to reach a production of 50,000 tons a year before long. The cellulose is needed for making paper and cardboard and will be divided amongst all four countries.

A large portion of factory equipment in the project was supplied by the GDR.

Snow Use

Winter is here, and so is a new issue of GDR Review, with a story about a pretty ski-jumper's trip to the mountains. GDR Review is a monthly illustrated magazine about life in Democratic Germany, published in English, French, Swedish, Spanish and German.

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COMMUNISTS BRAND BONN

The West German Government has become the main enemy of peace and relaxation in Europe, the Communist and Workers' parties of the world stated in the declaration issued on December 6th after a three-week conference in Moscow. Germany was represented at the conference by delegations from the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic, and the illegal Communist Party of West Germany.

Here, in unofficial translation, are those sections of the declaration dealing with Germany:

"The imperialist forces of the United States, Britain and France have made a criminal deal with West German imperialism. In West Germany militarism has been revived, and the restoration is being pushed ahead of a vast regular army commanded by Hitlerite generals, which the United States imperialists are equipping with nuclear and rocket weapons and other modern means of mass annihilation. This is leading increasingly to decisive protest on the part of the peace-loving peoples. Military bases in France and other western European countries are being put at the disposal of this aggresive army.

"The danger to peace and European security posed by West German imperialism is increasing. West German revanchists declare openly that they wish to change the frontiers laid down after World War Two. The West German militarists are preparing a war against the socialist countries and other European states, just as the Hitler clique did in the past, and they are endeavouring to implement their own plans of aggression. West Berlin has been converted into a centre of international provocation. The Bonn state is the main enemy in Europe of peaceful co-existence, disarmament, and detente.

"The united strength of all peace-loving states and peoples in Europe must be opposed to the aggressive plans of West German militarism. An especially big part in the struggle against the aggressive designs of the West German militarists is played by the German Democratic Republic. The participants in this discussion regard it as the duty of all the countries of the socialist camp and of all peace-loving peoples to defend the German Democratic Republic, which is the outpost of socialism in western Europe, and the true voice of the peaceful aspirations of the German people...

"In the opinion of Communists, the most urgent tasks if peace is to be safeguarded are: to stop the arms race; to ban nuclear weapons, and their testing and production; dismantle foreign war bases and withdraw foreign troops from other countries; disband military blocs; conclude a peace treaty with Germany; turn West Berlin into a demilitarised free city; thwart the aggressive designs of the West German revanchists; and prevent the revival of Japanese militarism."

GDR Celebrities Arrested

West German police arrested three prominent visitors from Democratic Germany in Munich on December 9th, although all were there on official invitation of the "German Cultural Conference". The three were released after a cross-examination lasting several hours, presumably because West German conference visitors, including Werner Egk, leading German composer, threatened to organise a protest march to Police Headquarters if they were kept under arrest.

The three men were Prof. Karl Laux, Rector of the Carl Maria von Weber College of Music in Dresden, Prof. Heinrich Allmeroth, Superintendent of Dresden's City Theatres, and Klaus Gysi, Director of the Aufbau Publishing House in East Berlin.

They had been invited to take part in a discussion on the subject "Difficulties and Possibilities of Cultural Exchange Between East and West". During the discussion, Prof. Laux and Prof. Allmeroth invited the West German cultural leaders to visit them in Dresden and get an idea of cultural progress in the GDR. That was when the police entered and arrested them.

The arrests, latest in a rapidly growing series involving GDR visitors to West Germany, were seen as an omen of what was to be expected if the planned West German "Border Control" law goes into effect. This law would reenforce police controls at all border crossing points between the two parts of Germany so as to keep all allegedly "political" visitors from leaving or visiting the GDR.

GDR Best-Seller Out in English

The story of a small Jewish child from Poland, smuggled into Buchenwald Concentration Camp in a suitcase and saved from death by the prisoners, has reached the best-seller list in Democratic Germany and remained there steadily for two years without interruption.

The book, entitled "Naked Among Wolves", has already been bought by over 500,000 readers in the GDR. Millions saw the fine television play based on the novel, and millions more will see the film being produced in GDR studios. The book has already been translated into many languages; now at last Seven Seas Books of Berlin have published an English edition.

Here is an interview with the book's author, Bruno Apitz, who was himself a prisoner at Buchenwald Concentration Camp:

The first question we asked Mr Apitz was how an incredible feat like that of saving a three-year-old child was possible under the noses of the SS.

"It was only possible," he answered, "because such a strong underground organisation existed in Buchenwald, counting among its members fighters of every nationality: German, French, Dutch, Polish, Russian, and many others."

"Rather a case of fact being stranger than fiction again", we said.

"Yes, but you know life in a concentration camp proved every day that the impossible was possible — impossible deeds of bestiality and cruelty, and impossible deeds of courage and resistance. The child in the story was threatened every minute day und night. His safety became, for the group protecting him, a symbol which soon spread throughout the camp — a symbol of life and of eventual freedom."

"Were the main characters in your book real or fictional?" we asked.

"Fictional, of course, since it is a novel", Mr Apitz said, "but they are based on real people. I also used real names for the book's main fictional characters, names of men who are dead. Kraemer, the book's camp senior, was shot in Buchenwald on orders of the Camp Commandant Koch in 1941 or 1942. Hoefel, who was tortured in the story because of the child, actually left Buchenwald in 1939. He resumed his anti-fascist work, was tracked down by the Gestapo and executed together with his young wife. Bochow, the book's leader of the underground in the camp, met the same fate."

"What actually happened to the child after liberation?"

"He was taken by the U.S.Army to the United States. The Berlin Committee of the International Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters has tried to find out his whereabouts without any success. The boy was three years old then. I knew him myself and often held him in my arms. I am moved again and again by the fact that people find the story of the child so gripping."

"How long were you at Buchenwald, Mr Apitz?"

"Eight years. I was there from its beginning. As a slave labourer, I was forced to help build Buchenwald. I left with the last inmates in 1945 when we were liberated. But before being sent to Buchenwald, I was a political prisoner of the nazis for three years."

"And after you left Buchenwald?"

"I was editor of a Leipzig newspaper, and then for the ensuing ten years I have been active in journalism, the theatre and writing. I started 'Naked Among Wolves' in 1955 and thought I could do it in six months. I counted my savings and calculated that they would last about that long. But the six months stretched into three years. I finished it in 1958."

"And did the savings stretch that long?"

"Lord, no, but my publisher came to the rescue and enabled me to write the book without financial worries. I don't regret having waited so long in starting for if I had begun right after I got out of the camp, it would perhaps have been only the story of the child. The intervening years gave me more perspective and I found that I had something to say that went beyond the fate of the child. I hope my book portrays the fight of good human beings everywhere against inhuman bestiality and depicts the great, humanitarian ideals of the fight against fascism."

"Do you feel that the fight has been won?"

"I can best answer by saying that in 1945, before leaving Buchenwald for home, all of us — from all nations — made a solemn pledge: not to give up the fight against fascism until the last fascist had been sentenced. This pledge has not yet been fulfilled. Eichmann has been caught but there are many others who still go unpunished and occupy leading positions in West Germany."

"The many-language editions of your book will certainly serve to remind people of this", we said. "And speaking of this, in how many languages has 'Naked Among Wolves' already been published?"

"I'm not quite sure", Mr Apitz grinned. "My publisher keeps telling me of another one. Swedish, Dutch, Hungarian, Russian, Czech, Bulgarian, Rumanian, Finnish, Norwegian, Danish..."

"And don't forget the English edition", we said.

"How could I?" Mr Apitz smiled, "especially when you tell me that orders have been piling up ever since Seven Seas Books announced the publication."

Where to Buy "Naked Among Wolves"

"Naked Among Wolves" and other fine and reasonably-priced Seven Seas paperbacks published in English in the German Democratic Republic may be obtained from the following suppliers:

Britain
Collet's Holdings Ltd.
45 Museum Street
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Canada
Midtown Book Shop
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Toronto, Ontario

Australia
Current Book Distributors
40 Market Street
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Los Angeles 57, Calif.

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Mr. Matthias O. Anadile
O.U.D.C. Works Department
14, Emmanuel Church Road
Onitsha

(Information on sales outlets in other countries may be obtained direct from the publishers: SEVEN SEAS PUBLISHERS, Glinka Strasse 13–15, Berlin W 8, Germany. Please do not write to GERMAN REPORT.)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A unique document has just fallen into our hands. Here is the background: It appears that the famous foreign correspondent, Mr Terence Uglie, after over-indulgence in his favourite Rhine wines, made a trip to London. Slightly fuddled, he came to the conclusion that he had landed somewhere behind the Iron Curtain, and sat down at his typewriter to bash out the sort of piece which he and his colleagues churn out almost automatically after a short visit, for instance, to East Berlin. Here are some extracts from this unique document:

"Grey is the colour which predominates in this city, groaning under the yoke. In the crowded, filthy underground trains, gaunt men in dirty raincoats travel unsmiling, and nobody dares exchange a word. Only foreigners can sometimes be seen to laugh or talk to their neighbours ...

"Many men wear curious hard black hats, called 'bowlers' in the local dialect, and I was reliably informed that these are worn to deflect the blows of the batons used so frequently by the police, though I must admit I saw few actual cases of police brutality during my stay. It is worthy of note that the regular police have recently been re-inforced by a para-military force camouflaged under the name of 'traffic wardens' who have arbitrary powers to prevent people from parking their cars where they want to ...

"A clear sign of the instability of the regime is the fact that increasing numbers of people are fleeing the country. Even 'The Times' was forced to admit on November 28th that 33,350 Britons were fleeing to Australia this year..."

But enough of Mr Uglie's report. Readers in Britain will have found it ludicrous, but I must assure them that it is no more ludicrous than the reports about East Berlin often presented in western newspapers. In fact it is a fine objective report on Britain, compared to some of the really outrageous junk that has been published in otherwise reputable British and American journals.

(Bitter experience leads me to insert the following warning: There is no such correspondent as Mr Uglie, and his report on conditions in London does not represent the views of GERMAN REPORT.)

* * *

The article from the "New York Herald Tribune" on nazism in Schleswig-Holstein, printed on page 205 of this isue, is unduly optimistic in stating that Frau Doktor Oberheuser, nazi medical experimenter, has been "finally debarred" from her successful practice as a children's doctor. Dr Oberheuser is appealing to a higher court, and the act of lodging an appeal will apparently allow her to continue to treat patients in the little West German town of Stocksee until the case is finally decided.

Commenting on the Oberheuser case on December 6th, the London "Daily Mail" stated:

"Surely our celluloid impresarios, who were so excited by the selfless scientific devotion of Herr Wernher von Braun, are not going to pass up the chance to glorify the battle for survival of the Good Woman of Stocksee?

"Who, after all, could be found to protest effectively against a filmed dramatization of this doctor's life saga?

"Those who came to appreciate Dr Oberheuser's talents at Ravensbrueck clearly have lost the right to speak. Like the men, women and children who experienced the scientific genius of Herr Wernher von Braun in the streets of London in 1945, they are dead."

But while we are recalling the case of Frau Doktor Oberheuser, we should not forget the case of SS Major Fritz Fischer. Fischer, also a doctor, cooperated with Oberheuser in the experiments on women prisoners in Ravensbrueck concentration camp. The same US Military Court which sentenced Oberheuser sent Dr Fischer to jail for life. He was released in 1951, and is now practicing medicine in the West German province of Hesse. Nobody has even attempted to strike him from the rolls.

Action against Oberheuser, even though it has been inconclusive so far, started following a resolution of disgust passed by the British Medical Association on July 11th 1958. Doctors amongst the readers of GERMAN REPORT might like to take up the case of Dr Fritz Fischer.

* * *

So now the poor old "Times" of London has gone and annoyed the West Germans. Apart from publishing a newspaper of some repute, The Times Publishing Company puts out a first class atlas of the world in several volumes, and it is the atlas which has trodden on the very sensitive toes of Dr Adenauer and his merry men. The difficulty is that the Times Atlas shows Europe as it really is, and not as the West German militarists would like it to be. The excellent maps of Europe show that the eastern frontier of Germany runs along the Oder-Neisse rivers, where it was fixed by the Potsdam Agreement.

Anyone who takes the trouble to go there will find that on the west bank of these rivers the people speak German, use German currency, obey German laws, and so on, while on the east bank of the rivers they speak Polish, use Polish zlotys to pay for things, and obey Polish laws. But the West German government refuses to recognise this fact, and forbids mapmakers in West Germany to show things as they really are.

At the beginning of December the West German Foreign Ministry got so excited about the fact that it threatened to take legal action against the Times Publishing Company if it went ahead with its plans to publish an edition of the Atlas in West Germany.

What makes the crime of the Times Atlas even more heinous, in the eyes of the Adenauer gang, is that it actually dares to give the various towns and villages in the western part of Poland the names by which they are known today to their inhabitants; these towns and villages should be marked with their German names, even if no Germans live there, the West Germans claim. Any time now we may expect the Dutch Government to make formal representations to the Times Publishing Company urging that the biggest city of the United States should be shown in the atlases as Nieuw Amsterdam; and the Italian government might protest because the British capital is not called Londinium.

Completely unreliable reports from Bonn state that when the troops of the West German Wehrmacht land in Britain, as they are scheduled to do in 1961, a detachment will be marched up to Printing House Square in London to seize the blocks of the offending atlas, and hang a few cartographers, to teach The Times that it should not march out of step with West German dreams of a "Greater Germany".

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